

LEARNER GUIDE

John 2:1-11

Where Moses turned water into _____, Jesus turned water into _____.

Where Moses' sign bears witness to _____ and _____,
Jesus' sign bears witness to _____ and _____.

Where Moses is characterized by the _____. Jesus is characterized by _____.

John 2:13-25

By turning the outer courts of the temple into a circus of consumerism and commotion, the church had _____ who God intended to _____.

When Jesus cleansed the temple, not only did He defend the nation's access to _____.
He also _____ it for all of us.

Worship has nothing to do with the _____ and everything to do with
the _____. Jesus is the _____, the place where heaven and earth
meet, the place where we can be in God's presence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Isaiah 25:6. What are the adjectives used to describe the *feast*, the *meat*, and the *wine*? Now look back at John 2:10. What do both of these verses reveal to us about Jesus and God's kingdom?
2. Consider your answers for the first question. What specific characteristics and specific ways can our lives reveal the richness and generosity of Jesus and God's kingdom?
3. We learned last week that John ordered his Gospel by *theme*. In Chapter 2, John records Jesus' miracle at Cana then he recounts Jesus cleansing the temple. What do you think John was trying to communicate by ordering these two events consecutively?
4. Revisit John 1:14 then use a concordance to look up the Greek word for *dwelt* (G4637). What English word does that transliteration bring to mind? How does the definition point to Jesus' claims about Himself in the temple?
5. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. As part of God's holy temple whose foundation is Jesus, what is the believers responsibility to other believers? What is the church's responsibility to the outside world?

PERSONAL STUDY

Part One

Read John 2:1-12

Jesus' first sign, the miracle at the wedding in Cana, reveals the generosity of God's kingdom. When Jesus turned the water into wine, He didn't create an ordinary wine, or even a good wine. He created the best wine the guests had ever tasted. Let's take a closer look at what He used to accomplish this miracle.

Read John 2:7 below paying close attention to the underlined words:

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Who and what did Jesus use for the very first miracle of His earthly ministry? What does this reveal to us about Jesus and the kingdom of God?

Read John 2:9-10 below and underline the Scripture phrase inside the parenthesis:

When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."

When the servants drew the liquid from the jar to serve to the master of the feast, what was the substance they drew out?

What does this teach us about the role we play in Jesus' kingdom work?

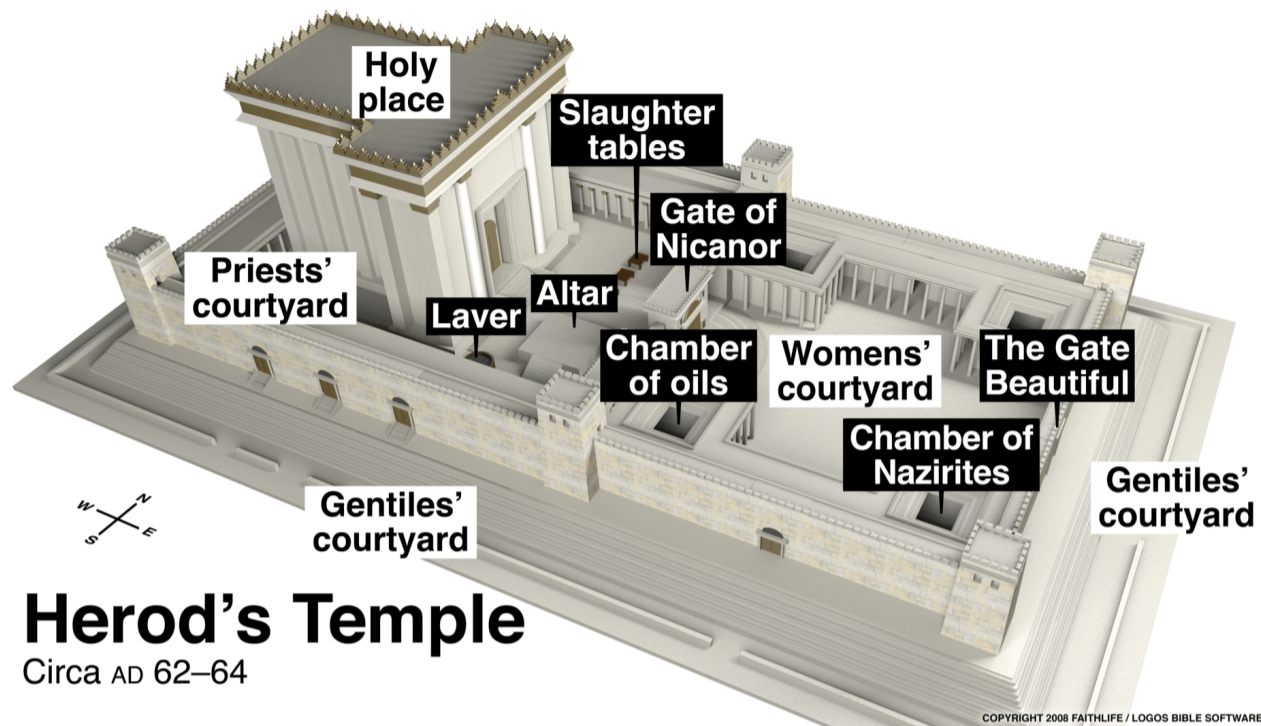
Jesus' first miracle teaches us that our Heavenly Father chooses to work through the *obedient faith of ordinary people with ordinary means*.

Close in prayer, thanking God for using ordinary women with faith to accomplish His work.

Part Two

Read John 2:13-17

Circle the Gentiles' courtyard in the diagram.



The Gentiles' courtyard, also known as the outer court, is the setting of today's passage. It was the only place in the temple where Gentiles were invited to worship God. Except, the Jews activity left little room for worship. It's estimated that the week of Passover, more than 250,000 lambs would have been sold in the Gentiles' courtyard. To the Jews this was an acceptable use of the space because Gentiles didn't belong at the temple anyway.

Andrew Knowles in *The Bible Guide* explains, "Jews felt so strongly about their moral and racial purity that they made a point of keeping outsiders away. A wall forms a barrier to keep Gentiles out of the inner Jewish courtyards of the temple. There are notices warning that trespassers will be executed."

Read Matthew 28:18-20. How is Jesus' attitude toward Gentiles different from that of the Jewish religious leaders of His time?

Do you interact with non-believers regularly or do you separate yourself from those who believe differently? In what ways can you follow Jesus' example of welcoming the lost?

Close in prayer, asking the Lord to give you a heart like His for all people.

Part Three

Read John 2:18-25

Some of the people in the temple courts the day that Jesus cleansed it remembered His words. And some time later they used those same words as evidence for why He should be crucified. Obviously, they witnessed what Jesus said, but they didn't understand Him.

Read Mark 14:57-59.

The disciples, however, had a different experience. Look again at John 2:22:

When therefore he was raised from the dead, the disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. ESV

How would you explain the difference between the people who tried to use Jesus' words against Him in Mark 14 and Jesus' disciples in John 2?

In Western culture, we want to see it to believe it! Kristi McClelland, author of *Israel 101*, teaches that Jews in Bible times were different. They were taught that in order to see or understand something, you must first believe it! In Bible times, *believing is seeing!*

The disciples believed Jesus' words were true and out of their belief came clear understanding. When we believe Jesus is who He says He is, we position ourselves to recognize where and how He is at work in our lives and the lives of those around us...When we truly believe Jesus is good, we will encounter evidence of His goodness. When we truly believe Jesus is powerful, we will perceive proof of His power. When we truly believe Jesus is merciful, we will discern the depths of His mercy.

Is there something about Jesus that you struggle to believe is true, maybe His unconditional love for you, His deep delight in you, His absolute forgiveness of all your sins? How might your unbelief be keeping you from seeing God's work in this area of your life?

Close in prayer, asking the Lord to reveal any areas of unbelief in your heart.

Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 2.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 2.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

Looking Ahead

Read John 3:1-4:42.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.
